gies of (a) active guineaworm case detection and surveillance (b) guineaworm case management with regular bandaging, (c) provision and maintenance of safe drinking water supplies, (d) vector control with temephos application to unsafe drinking water sources, (e) health education, (f) trained manpower development and (g) operational research and concurrent evaluation. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi being the nodal agency for Guineaworm Eradication Programme, plans, co-ordinates and evaluates the programme regularly.

Cancer Hospitals in Madhya Pradesh

241. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up some new cancer hospitals in various parts of the country in the near future ; and

(b) if so, the details of such cancer hospitals likely to be established in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARAD EVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is, however, a scheme for development of Oncology Wings in selected Government Medical Colleges/hospitals in those areas where at present no cancer treatment facilities are available. In Madhya Pradesh there is Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Gwalior, recognised by the Government as a Regional Cancer Centre, which provides compreshensive cancer treatment facilities.

Oral Contraceptive Pills

242. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite tremendous potential offered by the indigenous oral contraceptive pills it still remains beyond the reach of majority of people mainly because of their under production ;

(b) if so, what is its present annual production ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase its production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The drug Cantchroman, an oral contraceptive, discovered by Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, is not yet freely available in the market, as its commercial production is being scaled up by M/s. Hindustan Latex Ltd., Trivandrum and M/s. Torrent Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad, to whom technology of production has been transferred by the Central Drug Research Institute. Each company envisages to commence production during 1992 and increase it in a phased manner and reach an annual production of 600 kgs., which would give 18 million tablets.

Anti Cancer Drug

243. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the manufacture of an important anti-cancer drug for the first time in India in a major technological breakthrough ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) An anti-cancer drug 'Etoposide' has been developed indigenously. M/s Cipla Ltd. are undertaking commercial production of the drug in injection form. The drug is derived from a naturally occurring plant product called "Podophyllotoxin."

Rise in Oral Cancer in the Capital

244. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhites are more likely to get oral and Cervix cancer than other forms of the disease as per the news-item entitled "Oral Cancer on the Rise", which apperared in the Hindustan Times, dated 3rd January, 1992 ;

(b) if so, the number of oral and cervix cancer cases detected in the capital during the last three years and till date ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no exclusive cancer hospital in whole of North India ; and